

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended for clarity only. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Paul Tsou, during the January 17 personal interview. The substance of the interview is incorporated in the remarks below.

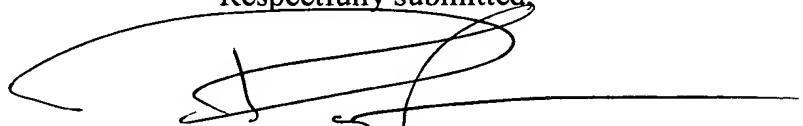
The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Masamichi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/085347) in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,349,662). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Johnson discloses an inquiry unit configured to direct inquiries to groups concerning activities performed by the groups citing col. 6, line 5 - col. 9, line 33. However, as agreed during the interview, Johnson does not disclose or suggest an inquiry unit configured to direct inquiries directly to the groups concerning activities performed by the groups, as recited in claims 1, 6 and 11. Thus, Masamichi and Johnson, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 6 and 11 and claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 that depend from claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Oliff', is written over the words 'Respectfully submitted,'.

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Date: January 22, 2008

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